

Feds Creek Refuse AML Reclamation Enhancement Project Pike County

Project Description

The proposed project (12.2 acres total) consists of removing an existing coal refuse pile within the community of Feds Creek, in Pike County, for reprocessing. The project area is centrally located in the Jamboree Quadrangle at N 37° 23' 54" latitude and W 82° 14' 35" longitude (see the attached map). The entire project work area has been previously disturbed by any or all of the following: coal mining operations, including mine drainage, timber operations, gas/oil well development, residential development, road construction, and/or high velocity water flows associated with heavy rain events and flooding. These disturbances consist of significant upheaval, mixing, and removal of earthen material from deep excavation, grading, sub-surface drilling, fill material placement, and erosion. There should be no undisturbed earthen material to a depth of several feet at the areas slated for significant project-related construction activities.

This project will include excavating the existing coal refuse pile by using an existing, permitted access-haul road for trucks. The coal refuse pile was created in the 1950s and 1960s from underground workings within the Clintwood Coal Seam by D.J.B. Collieries Inc. The proposed reclamation project area is located immediately upslope from Feds Creek, near the mouth where it empties into Levisa Fork. The existing coal refuse pile is a potential fire hazard, an environmental threat, and a possible source of stream pollution in Feds Creek and Levisa Fork.

Once removed, the coal refuse material will be trucked to two different processing plants. The preparation plants that will be utilized are operated by the Coal Operators 1, LLC (Permit#898-8164), located in the community of Millard, in Pike County, and the Clintwood Elkhorn Mining Company (Permit#898-8907), located near Biggs, in Pike County. The existing access road, currently permitted by P. B. Dirt Movers (Permit#898-9147), will undergo some minor upgrades and be maintained during the refuse removal operation, including dust control by watering methods. The road will be watered by utilizing a water truck when needed.

Drainage from the recovery operation will be initially controlled by utilizing sumps that will be installed on the downstream side of the refuse pile work areas. All runoff from the proposed project area will be directed through the constructed sump prior to entering local stream channels. Additional drainage ditches and culverts will be installed along the access roads. Prior to removal operations, vegetation within the removal site will be removed. Once removed, vegetation will be burned, where possible. Burning will not take place atop the existing refuse pile. Trees over 5" in diameter will have to be removed. The refuse will be removed beginning at the top of the pile and moving downward. The removal process will be simple, as the existing coal refuse pile is

an actual mound that lies upon the natural ground line. The applicant will create a work area for which trucks will be loaded as refuse material is taken from the existing pile. The disturbed areas will be kept to a minimum with no unnecessary disturbances made. Within the proposed work area it will be necessary to create enough room to allow the transport trucks the ability to load and turn to exit the project area. As previously noted, the removal process will not begin until all necessary drainage features are in-place. This process will allow for complete removal of the refuse pile with minimal disturbance of the refuse pile outslope at any given time.

The operator conducting the removal operation will utilize caution when removing the refuse material located at the Clintwood coal seam elevation to ensure that no adit exists, and if water is encountered, it will be allowed to bleed off slowly and will be directed to a sediment control basin/depression area (if necessary, one will be constructed) prior to entering the local stream channel. Once the water has been removed, removal operations will continue. Additionally, if water is encountered it will be allowed to discharge and free flow, unless it is determined that this possible drainage area needs to be re-sealed in order to maintain existing domestic water supplies. Any concrete debris found on the refuse removal areas will be pulverized, buried, and covered with graded refuse and cover material.

All refuse removal will be conducted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, unless an emergency warrants the changing of the scheduled work hours. If emergency refuse removal is warranted, Division of Abandoned Mine Lands (DAML) personnel will be notified in advance of such removal. Emergency refuse removal will not occur until DAML gives prior approval unless the emergency constitutes a direct and imminent threat to public health and safety.

As refuse recovery operations are completed, the area will be scarified, limed, topsoiled then seeded and mulched according to the revegetation plan. If the original topsoil located at the original groundline proves to not have been contaminated by the refuse material, alternate topsoil material will not be necessary. Upon completion of refuse recovery operations, all disturbed areas will be revegetated to prevent erosion and establish a suitable post reclamation land use, compatible with future anticipated uses by the surface owner. The areas to be revegetated may require lime application to neutralize any acidic or barren spots or to promote vegetative growth. Location and rates of lime application will be determined by DAML.

Trees will be planted by DAML. The species and stocking rate will be determined by DAML personnel. No disturbance of any stream reach is planned. All necessary permits and/or variances will be procured prior to construction. The project will require tree removal. Metal debris or any trash, should it be encountered, within the refuse area will be hauled to an off-site approved landfill. Construction disturbances will be kept to a minimum through the use of a stringently formulated sediment and erosion control program, consisting of hay-bale silt checks and silt fences maintained throughout the life of the project, prompt re-vegetation using agricultural limestone, fertilizer, seed, netting and mulch for the areas disturbed by the project.

This project will include pre- and/or post- project maintenance and repair of existing previously constructed public county roads utilized during the construction of this project, which are administered by the county or local road authority. Maintenance of the road shall include periodic inspection and cleaning of culverts and of ditches if necessary. Procedures will include the assurance that culverts do not collapse or become clogged. The surface of the road will be maintained by grading, filling and replacement surfacing materials. Sediment control from storm water runoff of road will be controlled by straw bales and silt fences if necessary.